

After steps S42 and S43, the seating-order determiner 71 sets the group table according to the contents of the attention-destination table for each of "individual numbers" H1 to Hn in the process of step S43.

Fig. 11 is a detailed flowchart of processing for setting the group table according to the contents of the attention-destination table in step S43 of the flowchart of Fig. 9. In Fig. 11, "registration" means registration to the group table; a "self entry" means a self entry in the attention-destination table; an "attention destination" means an attention destination in a self entry; an "attention-destination entry" means the entry of an attention destination in the attention-destination table; a "self group" means a group to which the self belongs as a member; and an "attention-destination group" means a group to which an attention destination belongs as a member. An actual registration operation means that the number of members is incremented by one in a group table; a corresponding number is added as a member in the group table; and the corresponding "whether registration has been made to group table" cell in the attention-destination table is changed to "O."

A requirement concerning the setting of the entry of a conference participant HMi in the attention-destination table will be first described. A requirement (hereinafter

called a first requirement in each teleconference device) concerning the setting of the entry of the conference participant HMi having an individual number of Hi in the attention-destination table includes the registration of the individual number Hi to the group table, and a change of the "whether registration has been made to group table" cell in the entry of the individual number Hi in the attention-destination table to "O." When the attention-destination number corresponding to the individual number Hi is A0 (which means the conference participant pays attention to none of the other conference participants), only this requirement applies.

When the attention-destination number corresponding to the individual number Hi is not A0, a requirement (hereinafter called a second requirement in each teleconference device) includes the registration of the attention-destination number to the group table, a change of the "whether registration has been made to group table" cell in the entry of the attention destination in the attention-destination table to "O," and the registration of the individual number Hi and the attention destination to the same group in the group table.

By following the flowchart shown in Fig. 11, whether these requirements are satisfied is checked.

In the process of step S51, the seating-order

determiner 71 determines whether the "whether registration has been made to group table" cell in the self entry of the individual number  $H_i$  in the attention-destination table is "O." When the "registration" in the self entry has already been set to "O" in step S51, since it is ensured that registration to the group table has already been performed, the first requirement is already satisfied. Therefore, when it is determined in step S51 that YES is obtained, the seating-order determiner 71 does not perform work related to registration of the individual number  $H_i$  to the group table, and the processing proceeds to step S53. When it is determined in step S51 that NO is obtained, since the "registration" is "x" in the self entry, the processing proceeds to step S52.

In the process of step S52, the seating-order determiner 71 registers the self (individual number) to a group having no member and the smallest number in the group table, and the processing proceeds to step S53.

As the results of steps S51 and S52, the first requirement is satisfied before the process of the next step S53.

In the process of step S53, the seating-order determiner 71 determines whether the attention-destination number is not A0. When the attention-destination number is A0, in other words, it is determined in step S53 that NO is